

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PROJECT MAC

Reply to: Project MAC
545 Technology Square
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Telephone: (617) 864-6900 x6201

August 28, 1972

Mr. Robert E. Hoffman
Account Manager, M.I.T.
Honeywell Information Systems, Inc.
275 Wyman Street
Waltham, Mass. 02154

Dear Bob:

Thank you for bringing over the information on printer fonts. I have reviewed the various things which seem to be usable as starting points, and suggest that we try to develop a PRT-300 printer chain for use at all Multics installations, based on the "Condensed Messenger" character style used on the chain part number 5035124, a copy of which is attached. The "Messenger" style, of all those you showed me, is the only one for which the letters and numbers are really suitable for printed text intended for widespread publication. Although it is not perfect, it is far superior to the "RIFE" style currently used on our PRT-300.

The following changes would be necessary to develop a Multics ASCII chain from the "Condensed Messenger" chain:

1. The Messenger "hyphen" should be removed, and replaced with a "minus sign".
2. Add the following characters to complete the ASCII character set:
 - a. A numeric "one" which is clearly distinct from the lower case "L".
 - b. double quote
 - c. number sign
 - d. percent sign
 - e. acute accent
 - f. grave accent
 - g. tilde
 - h. circumflex
 - i. left parenthesis
 - j. right parenthesis
 - k. left bracket
 - l. right bracket

} these characters should all clearly overstrike the lower case letters a, e, and o.

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- m. left brace
- n. right brace
- o. less than
- p. greater than
- q. plus
- r. equals
- s. commercial at
- t. broken vertical line
- u. left slant (symmetric with the messenger
right slant)
- v. an underline which clearly underlines all
letters which do not have descenders.

Although this list seems quite long (23 additions or changes), many of these characters appear on other chains and may be borrowable. In particular, the "Messenger" style chain number 5053114 contains a suitable minus sign, percent sign, double quote, left parenthesis, right parenthesis, plus sign, and commercial at sign. (I did not start with that chain as a base because it also contains six non-ASCII characters which would have to be removed.) The chain named TN(N) has suitable brackets, braces, number sign, less than, and greater than signs. The chain currently in use on our PRT-300 contains many (but not all) of the remaining characters, but I do not have available a complete sample of its special characters and thus cannot necessarily recommend them.

I hope that this is enough information to get started on a more specific proposal for a standard Multics chain for the PRT-300.

Sincerely yours,



Jerome H. Saltzer
Associate Professor of
Electrical Engineering

JHS/mw

Enclosure

xc: C.T. Clingen
J.W. Gintell
R.A. Roach
T.H. VanVleck

DIRECTION
OF SLUG

HOME
SLUG

POSITION	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
SLUG REFERENCE	[XLI]	[p19]	[b d b]	[e8vθ]	[zφes]	[.SY]	[XWVU]	[TzHQ]	[qom]	[JLI]	[HθFH]	[CθFA]
PART NO.	50329362	50329330	50329329	50329419	50329418	50329417	50329416	50329415	50329358	50329414	50329413	50329411

POSITION	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13
SLUG REFERENCE	[XWVU]	[TzHQ]	[qom]	[JKI]	[HθFH]	[DθBΛ]	[Λ*]	[3S:]	[zφsv]	[XWVU]	[JzIP]	[qom]
PART NO.	50329416	50329415	50329358	50329414	50329413	50329412	50329422	50329421	50329420	50329334	50329333	50329332

POSITION	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25
SLUG REFERENCE	[Λ*]	[3S:]	[zφsv]	[XWVU]	[JzIP]	[qom]	[JKI]	[p19]	[b d b]	[e8vθ]	[zφes]	[SY]
PART NO.	50329422	50329421	50329420	50329334	50329333	50329332	50329362	50329330	50329329	50329419	50329416	50329417

POSITION	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40	39	38	37
SLUG REFERENCE	[XLI]	[p19]	[b d b]	[e8vθ]	[zφes]	[.SY]	[XWVU]	[TzHQ]	[qom]	[JKI]	[HθFH]	[CθFA]
PART NO.	50329362	50329330	50329359	50329419	50329418	50329417	50329416	50329415	50329358	50329414	50329413	50329312

POSITION	60	59	58	57	56	55	54	53	52	51	50	49
SLUG REFERENCE	[XWVU]	[TzHQ]	[qom]	[JKI]	[HθFH]	[DθBΛ]	[Λ*]	[3S:]	[zφsv]	[XWVU]	[JzIP]	[qom]
PART NO.	50329416	50329415	50329358	50329414	50329413	50329412	50329422	50329421	50329420	50329334	50329333	50329332

POSITION	72	71	70	69	68	67	66	65	64	63	62	61
SLUG REFERENCE	[Λ*]	[3S:]	[zφsv]	[XWVU]	[JzIP]	[qom]	[JKI]	[p19]	[b d b]	[e8vθ]	[zφes]	[SY]
PART NO.	50329422	50329421	50329420	50329334	50329333	50329332	50329362	50329330	50329329	50329419	50329418	50329417

PRINT OUT

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ.,23456789abcde fghijkl
 Name of Array: Book Style Text
 mnopqrstuvwxyz0\$::?&!*-/ABCDEFGHIJKLMN O PQRSTU VWX
 Equipment No: CL8N2
 YZ.,23456789abcde fghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz0\$::?&!*-/
 Nominal Print Speed: 855
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ.,23456789abcde fghijkl
 Character Style: Messenger Condensed
 mnopqrstuvwxyz0\$::?&!*-/ABCDEFGHIJKLMN O PQRSTU VWX
 Ribbon Compatibility: Nylon
 YZ.,23456789abcde fghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz0\$::?&!*-/

delete hyphen -
 no numeric 1 ✓
 no quotes " ✓
 no ~~underline~~ ✓
 number sign # ✓
 percent % ✓
 odd minus - ✓
 acute accent ✓
 left parenthesis (✓
 right parenthesis) ✓
 plus + ✓
 grave accent ` ✓
 less than < ✓
 equals = ✓
 greater than > ✓
 commercial at @ ✓
 left brace { ✓
 right brace } ✓
 broken vertical line ! ✓
 left bracket [✓
 right bracket] ✓
 left slash / ✓
 circumflex ^ ✓
 underline _ ✓
 tilde ~ ✓

Numeric 1 should differ with letter l.
 Underline should clear
 delete accent, grave accent, + tilde + circumflex + slash + overstrike, a e and o
 lower on